

Ad-hoc Agricultural Assessment Work Group

7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Meeting Minutes April 8, 2013 NRD Conference Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 10am.
2. Alan Proctor, Doug Craven, John Keshick and Regina Brubaker-Carver were present. Renee Dillard, Kevin Gasco and Michele Keshick were absent.

Guests: Ellie Payton – Mobility Coordinator, Dan Berg, Wendolyn Wieland - MSUE

3. Old Action Items
 - a. Potential Funding Opportunities – AP forwards contact for native CDFI that specializes in loans to tribes for land purchase. ‘Indian Land Capital Company’ www.ilcc.net JK will inquire about additional funding opportunities at upcoming Food Sovereignty Summit.
 - b. DC – research USDA Loan Program. – No action taken.
 - c. No updates.
 - d. RB – Raised bed supplies are at greenhouse, still need to research suitable soils for beds. Work bee scheduled for April 10, 2013.
 - e. Mini grants submitted by DC, scholarships for tribal youth to attend 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp at Camp Chickagami on Presque Isle, MI. RB and Wendolyn Weiland also submitted a mini grant proposal, along with Joe VanAlstine from Commodities. Grants are result of LTBB participation with the Relationship Building for Better Partnerships: Anishnaabe Tribes & MSUE sessions are administered directly through MSU in partnership with LTBB and MSUE for specific projects within the LTBB community. There will be approximately 2-3 grants (\$1000 each) per community.
 - f. RB – Call placed with Becky (Danny Berg) regarding starter plants assistance. April 10, 2013 would have been late, but order was placed.
 - g. LTBB youth interest to attend 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp at Camp Chickagami, no one from Youth Department in attendance.
 - h. AP – has begun process to allow AAWG to enter into an agreement for technical assistance regarding LTBB Farm Plan following March 6, 2013 Council phone poll authorizing such action.
 - i. RB and DC – Will begin process to formulate a budget for hoop house materials. Raised beds materials purchase complete, EP has developed list of soils providers within the area along with prices and availability.
 - j. MSU Apprenticeship Program – RG to investigate, Gordon Henry is MSU contact.
 - k. Building Codes – JK – working with Planning Director Bryan Gillett, is possible to develop a list of exceptions that would fit into tribal code with Executive/Council approval.

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Prepared by Alan Proctor, 05-07-13

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1. Acreage 'map' of Parcel 54 to use with LTBB Farm Plan developed by Jim Keiser in GIS Department.
4. Minutes – Draft AAWG February 4, 2013, March 6, 2013 meeting minutes. No action taken.
5. New Business
 - a. Report from JK and Danny Berg on Parcel 54, good water sources and soil and flat terrain. No visual drawbacks are apparent. In regards to barrels on back side of property, vegetation is growing to their base so no indication of hazardous materials are evident (or barrels are not leaking at this point). Either way, the barrels should be removed soon after purchase. DB also recommends seller sign off on any buried field tanks. According to DB, “tons of produce” could be grown there. DB also would recommend updated soils analysis. No further information from Kim (real estate agent) about additional interested parties. DB would be willing to assist with costs for planting, labor and expected yields from tillable fields. All equipment is very old, suspects saleable equipment has already been moved via auction or other means. DB would be willing to develop list of necessary equipment items.
6. New Action Items – for report to AAWG at next scheduled meeting.
 - a. Potential Funding Opportunities
 - i. DC – research USDA Loan Program. – No action taken.
 - ii. JK – working with Planning Director Bryan Gillett and General Counsel Jim Bransky researching the Land Tenure Foundation and traditional lending institutions, also with Grants Writer Julie Kauppila. – Grant writer unable to attend this meeting 030613.
 - b. RB –Starter plants.
 - c. BB – Will ascertain LTBB youth interest to attend 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp at Camp Chickagami, Youth crop stand and other fund raising opportunities associated with agriculture.
 - d. Technical assistance regarding LTBB Farm Plan.
 - e. RB and DC –Budget for hoop house materials.
 - f. Farm Plan
 - g. 2013 Annual Meeting
 - h. Murray Road Plantings
 - i. Field corn
7. Next Meeting – May 8, 2013 to be held in LTBB NRD Conference Room.
8. Adjournment